

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03
COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 181649Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2132
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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KINSHASA FOR US DELEGATION TO ECA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECA, AF, OCON
SUBJ: UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) MEETING,
KINSHASA - FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 3,1977

REF: (A) STATE 032074 (B) ABIDJAN 001 (C) ABIDJAN 002

1. GOIC DELEGATION COMPOSED OF CHAIRMAN M. MAURICE
SERI GNOLEBA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND
SIAKA COULIBALY, GOIC'S AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM. FOR
RELATIVELY YOUNG MINISTER, SERI GNOLEBA HAS CONSIDERABLE
EXPERIENCE AT MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES. NO PUBLIC
STATEMENTS CONCERNING GOIC'S VIEWS OF CONFERENCE HAVE
BEEN ISSUED.

2. GOIC'S ATTITUDES TOWARD GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES
AND THE NIEO WERE REPORTED IN REFTELS B AND C. AS
A MEMBER OF THE THIRD WORLD, THE IVORY COAST PAYS
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GENERAL LIPSERVICE TO CHERISHED PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPING
STATES AS EMBODIED IN NIEO,BUT IS WILLING AND CAPABLE
OF TAKING STANDS INDEPENDENT OF THE THIRD WORLD. THE IVORY
COAST IS CONVINCED IT SHOULD SEEK SOLUTIONS BEST
FITTED TO ITS OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT FREQUENTLY FINDS ITS INTERESTS
QUITE NATURALLY COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THE REST OF

THIRD WORLD. HOWEVER IVORY COAST SEEKS TO ACCOMMODATE ITS INTERESTS THROUGH MODERATION, PRAGMATISM, AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE.

3. THE IVORY COAST WAS PLEASED WITH THE VARIETY OF INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE IVORY COAST IS SHOWING SIGNS, HOWEVER, OF INCREASING RESTIVENESS AT LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE "NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE", PARTICULARLY IN CIEC FORUM. THE IVORY COAST'S AMBITIOUS NEW FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS DEPENDENT ON REMUNERATIVE AND STABLE PRICES FOR ITS PRINCIPAL EXPORTS AND ON ACCESS TO CAPITAL AT REASONABLE TERMS. THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COULD BE TRIMMED WITHOUT GREAT HARM, BUT UNDER WORSE CASE ASSUMPTIONS OF TUMBLING COMMODITY PRICES AND LACK OF ACCESS TO FOREIGN CAPITAL, IT COULD COME TO A CRUNCHING HALT. THE IVORY COAST IS CURRENTLY ENJOYING A PRICE BOOM FOR ITS THREE PRINCIPAL COMMODITY EXPORTS: COFFEE, COCOA, AND TIMBER. BUT IT IS NOTEWORTHY, AND TYPICAL OF IVORY COAST'S FARSIGHTEDNESS THAT WHILE COFFEE AND COCOA PRICES ARE AT RECORD HIGHS, THE GOIC IS NOT ENCOURAGING PLANTING NEW COFFEE, KNOWING THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION MAY BE SHORT-LIVED, AND THAT GOIC IS MOST ANXIOUS TO NEGOTIATE A NEW COCOA AGREEMENT TO ENSURE PROFITABLE AND STABLE RETURNS RATHER THAN ERRATIC UPS AND DOWNS.

4. EMBASSY CONCURS IN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT THE AFRICAN DELEGATES WILL LISTEN WITH KEEN INTEREST TO US STATEMENT AT ECA AS FIRST STATEMENT IN AFRICAN FORUM BY NEW ADMINISTRATION, AND WE ARE PLEASED IT IS BEING ACCORDED THE IMPORTANCE IT WARRANTS.
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STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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From: ABIDJAN
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